

INDEPENDENT

# The Labor Advocate

"A PAPER WITHOUT A MUZZLE" FOR ALL WHO TOIL.

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## The Willis Administration Takes Another Kick Out of The Workmen's Compensation Law

**Insurance Commissioner Taggart Allows The State to be Over-run with "Liability Turkey Buzzards," Who Are Trying to Destroy The Compensation Act.**

**And The State Emergency Appropriation Board Refuses to Allow The Industrial Commission to Employ Men to Counteract The Same. Willis is The Same Kind of Friend to Labor That Judas Was to The Savior.**

Once again has the Workmen's Compensation act been made the object of direct attack upon the part of the Willis administration, and once more it is made clear to all who keep in touch with public affairs in this State. Once more has the administration given evidence of insincerity, and once more have the rights of labor been assailed in a most flagrant manner.

At the time of the enactment of the Workmen's Compensation law it was shown that more than six thousand men were engaged in the work of soliciting liability insurance in this State, while in well-informed circles it is believed this number has been at least doubled, and that this army of men is now engaged in the work of undermining the workings of the Workmen's Compensation law, aided and abetted by Insurance Commissioner Taggart, an appointee of Mr. Willis, who has encouraged these liability concerns by issuing licenses to them to do business in this State, an action entirely against the objects of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Now comes another part of the Willis administration, the State Emergency Appropriation Board, who refuses to allow the State Industrial Commission permission to employ solicitors to explain the workings of the Workmen's Compensation, thus, to some extent, offsetting the work of the liability concerns which, with a large army of workers, are engaged in the work of nullifying the Compensation act through misrepresentation as to its benefits, thus placing the people for whose benefit this department was created, at the mercy of the liability concerns.

The evident purpose of the administration is to so prejudice the minds of the people as to effectually kill the Workmen's Compensation act, thus leaving the field open to the liability concerns, and the workers completely at the mercy of shysters of all breeds, crooked lawyers, doctors and agents, since it is never the intention of the liability concerns to pay a claim in case of death or accident; their province being simply to defend the employer in case of suit. Their idea is that almost all such claims as may be filed in cases of accidents can be settled with little outlay of money. The victim is usually in need of money; a widow or orphan children are dependent and in urgent need. It is but a simple matter to starve such claimant into a compromise settlement, which costs little.

When the State Industrial Commission was established, it was the intention to forbid the liability insurance concerns doing business in Ohio, and this intention was strictly enforced under the Cox administration, but, with the advent of the Willis regime, licenses were issued to these liability concerns and the army of agents and solicitors was doubled almost immediately. Now comes the refusal of the Emergency Appropriation Board to grant permission to the Industrial Commission to employ men to explain the workings of the law, thus further aiding the liability concerns, to the detriment of labor and capital alike.

During the recent campaign, when Mr. Willis was a candidate for governor, he was openly accused by Governor Cox of being in league with the liability insurance lobby. His denial of this charge was vehement, and enough people believed him to make his election possible. Developments since Mr. Willis assumed the duties of office have certainly not tended to disprove the charges of Cox, but, on the other hand, there is certainly reason to believe the charges were well founded. Insurance Commissioner Taggart could not grant licenses to the liability concerns without the knowledge and consent of the governor. If the governor was friendly, as he claimed to be, to the Workmen's Compensation act, he



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Cincinnati's Vice-Mayor

would not allow his appointees to practically nullify all the strongest provisions of the law. These rulings make it possible for the liability insurance concerns to place an army of men in the field who, by misrepresentation and deliberate falsehood, deceive the public and the employers of labor, while they prohibit the State authorities from making any effort to counteract or disprove these misrepresentations. The claim is made that the State has not enough money to carry on its insurance; that this State insurance does not relieve the employer from liability in case of accident, even though the State does pay for the injury, and that the entire plan is worthless. These claims are the usual arguments advanced by solicitors who are permitted to do business in this State in defiance of law, and Governor Willis will have to answer to the organized voters as well as the people in general when he again asks favor and further honors at the polls.

### PREPARING NEW SCALE.

Boston.—Wage increases and shorter hours in cases where the work week is more than forty-four hours are included in the new scale prepared by the joint executive board of the Telephone Employees' unions.

### BLACKSMITHS WANT 8 HOURS.

Boston.—Organized blacksmiths are conducting an eight-hour campaign. International officers are assisting and it is announced that the agitation will continue indefinitely, if necessary.

### MOLDERS ASK FOR MORE.

Wheeling, W. Va.—Iron molders have asked for a minimum rate of \$4 for a nine-hour day. The old rate was \$3.50.

### SHEET METAL WORKERS

Are Notified By Their International President That the Metal Trim Belongs to Them.

Copies of a general circular letter have been received in this city from John J. Hynes, general president of the Sheet Metal Workers' International Alliance. This letter should settle, for all time, the much mooted question of jurisdiction over sheet metal work, which has caused so much discussion between the carpenters and metal workers in the past. The letter follows:

Kansas City, Dec. 6, 1915.

To Affiliated Local Unions of the I. A. Greeting:

Numerous inquiries being received at the general office in Kansas City for advice as applied to action taken by the San Francisco convention of the American Federation of Labor and Building Trades Department upon the question of our long standing controversy with the Brotherhood of Carpenters over the erection of metal trim, I herewith supply a brief statement covering this subject in advance of a general report that will appear in this month's issue of the Journal.

In the American Federation of Labor convention the subject matter of this jurisdictional dispute came before the convention through the Executive Council report. This report suggested a plan of adjustment which gave the sheet metal workers full jurisdiction over the manufacture of all hollow metal doors and trim and in the erection either the sheet metal worker or carpenter was to perform the work under an interchangeable card basis. Your delegates opposed this proposition for many reasons, and when the vote was taken upon the question it showed a majority in favor of

## Central Labor Council Held a Hot Session Last Tuesday

**Ott Called Prout a "Hypocrite" and Prout Called Ott "An Agent For The Wets." Prout Says He Took the Gas Out of His Furnace, Notwithstanding That He Found It More Satisfactory and Cheaper Than Coal. President McManus in Distraction Ordered The Meeting Adjourned.**

The meeting of the Central Labor Council was so hot last Tuesday night that it drove President Thomas McManus to the tall timbers, and in order not to send for the patrol wagon, he ordered the meeting adjourned.

The last Labor Day celebration was made up of a joint committee from the Central Labor Council and the Building Trades Council, and the affair was a big success. At a meeting of the joint committee, when the members of the Building Trades Council were not present, the members of the central body voted themselves ten dollars apiece for the honor of serving their fellow members. When this information reached the Building Trades Council they let out a yell which could be heard in Chicago, and refused to agree to it; but the protest was a little late, as the committee from the central body had already paid themselves, so the thing was fought out on the floor of the central body last Tuesday.

Mr. Ratke, who received ten bucks, belongs to that scientific class known as the brewery workers, but whose real occupation is that of slinging beer barrels, and he is one of the fifty thousand men whom the wet campaign managers tell us will take everybody's job in case the state goes dry. Ratke did not want to be pried loose from his ten bucks and therefore he made a lot of noise arraigning the Building Trades Council and every one connected with it. He threw his big German guns at the poor little LABOR ADVOCATE, whose peaceful editor was playing pinocle at the time with a German cornetist.

But the Building Trades Council had a friend who valiantly defended their rights, in the person of Adolph Kummer, which was greatly appreciated, as it came from a quarter entirely unexpected. Kummer had previously had his troubles with the Building Trades Council, but his action Tuesday night shows that his heart is in the right place and he won the thanks of the Building Trades Council.

Next on the program, William Prout, business agent of the Shoe Workers, a member of the Board of Directors of the People's Power League and a leader of the Bigelow interests in the Central Labor Council, who called the members attention to the fact that the Union Gas & Electric Company was on the "We Don't Patronize List," and that he had been informed that some of the members were not living up to it and that they were still taking gas and electric light from this unfair company, and that he wanted some action taken by the central body to force the members to live up to the action of the Council, by not patronizing the Union Gas & Electric Company.

Brother Ott, who had just left a hard day's work at the carpenter's bench, arose to state that Brother Prout's idea was entirely wrong; the people must have gas and electric light and that Brother Prout himself was a hypocrite because he was enjoying these public utilities.

Prout replied that he had done his share for labor, since he had taken the gas out of his furnace, notwithstanding that he found it more satisfactory and cheaper than coal. This was said without malice and not as an advertisement for the Gas & Electric Company.

Prout stated that the time is not far off when Cincinnati will have a gas and electric company which will be owned by the citizens of Cincinnati.

Brother Prout accused Brother Ott of representing the brewers' campaign committee, and Brother Ott accused Brother Prout of being a disciple of Herbert Bigelow. And things were going fast and furious, others having taken a hand in the matter at this time.

Tom McManus, the good-natured president, finding himself unable to handle the meeting, and as he was getting drier and drier every minute, he took the bull by the horns and declared the meeting adjourned and immediately beat it over to the nearest saloon, in order to find out where he stood.

## Building Trades Council

**Requests All Members to Call For Special Working Permits From All Painters Until Further Notice.**

The meeting of the Building Trades Council was called to order Thursday evening by Secretary Hock, owing to the absence of President Cullen and Vice-President Fischer. Secretary Hock called for nominations for a president pro tem. Brother Gallagher of the Structural Iron Workers, being duly elected, took the chair.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

The working agreement of the Plumbers' Local No. 59 was read and laid over until the next meeting.

Business Agent Hock's report was read and adopted.

The Labor Day Committee made a final report and the committee was discharged.

The sheet metal workers. Following this vote, a motion was made and carried which instructed the Executive Council to issue a general circular letter announcing that carpenters did not have jurisdiction over the erection of hollow metal doors and trim. The foregoing action is recognized as a victory for the sheet metal workers.

It is our position and will be our contention everywhere that our craft has full jurisdiction over the manufacture and erection of all hollow metal doors and trim, and I hereby instruct all of our local unions and their representatives to take this stand and fight for same regardless of influence or advice that may come from sources outside the ranks of our craft.

Fraternally yours,  
JOHN J. HYNES,  
General President.

All trades reported business good.

Brother McEwen made a stirring speech for the order and good welfare, requesting the members to have their local issue instructions to members to demand working card of every craftsman on the building, and in order to do this without creating offense, show your card to the stranger before asking for his.

The painters' delegates requested that all craftsmen call for a special working card of the painters at this time, instead of the regular card. This request was concurred in.

There being no further business, the Council adjourned until the next regular meeting date.

### OBJECTS TO "CHAIN GANG."

Wilmington, Del.—The Central Labor Union has forwarded a protest to the police commission against the practice of chaining men convicted of vagrancy and forcing them to work under these conditions.

### HAVE WE CAUGHT ONE, YET?

Switzerland is not so good-natured and easy-going as the United States. It has just jailed its sixty-eighth spy.—Syracuse Post-Standard.

### LONGSHOREMEN RAISE WAGES.

Grand Haven, Mich.—After a twenty-four hours' strike, longshoremen employed by the Crosby Transportation Company raised wages 5 cents an hour.